THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) According to the information available, no application for grant of freedom fighters's Pension is pending with the Government for more than five years.

(b) Aggrieved with the decision of the Central Government in rejecting their applications for grant of pension, the applicants keep on submitting representations/review petitions for reconsideration of their cases. Such cases are considered, if the applicants furnish additional information/documentary evidence in support of their claim. Further, the Government has set up a Special Audit Team (SAT) under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary in-charge of the Freedom Fighters Division with two prominent freedom fighters as Members; for assisting the Government in expeditious disposal of pending cases.

Steps to curb bomb blasts in capital

67. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken/ contemplated steps to curb the recent spurt in incidents of bomb explosions in the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have decided to accede to Delhi Government's demand for entrusting police to the Delhi Government for betterment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The situation arising out of series of bomb blasts in the National Capital during the current year has been reviewed and it has been decided that there is a need to improve the intelligence gathering system through a better coordination between police and intelligence agencies and also to seek closer public participation in detecting such bombs and apprehending the culprits.

(c) In accordance with the existing Constitutional framework, the matters relating to "police" and "public order" in the National Capital Territory do not fall within the pruview of the Legislative Assembly of Delhi.

Hostages kidnapped in Kashmir and Assam

68. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the latest information with Government in respect of the whereabouts of the four westerners kidnapped and kept as hostages by militants in Kashmir about two years back and Sanjay Ghosh abducted sometime back in Assam by ULFA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): Government have no confirmed information about the precise whereabouts or condition, of the 4 foreign nationals abducted from Kashmir Valley in July 1995, who continue to remain untraced despite efforts.

In the case of Sanjay Ghosh abducted in Assam in July 1997, though there have been some reports about his death, but in the absence of any final proof it is not possible to declare him dead in the legal sense. A CBI enquiry has been ordered into the matter and investigation is going on.

Central legislation to check up militancy

69. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Mnister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the latest game plan of Pakistan's intelligence agency (ISI) to launch a fresh offensive to step up militancy in J&K, Punjab, Delhi and adjoining States besides making efforts to step up smuggling of narcotics and also to flood Indian markets with fake currency, as

reported in the Hindustan Times dated 17th October, 1997;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the need to enact a Central Legislation as per suggestion of the Rajasthan Government placed before the conference of Chief Ministers of Northern States in this regard; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken so far to deal firmly with the activities of anti-national elements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Government is aware of the sinister designs of the ISI of Pakistan to destabilise India by sponsoring terrorism and supressive activities in different parts of the country. There have been instances wherein RDX explosives, arms and amunitions etc. were smuggled into the country for disturbing law and order. Pak ISI has also been patronising smugglers operating in the border areas to smuggle drugs as well as fake currency in order to promote terrorist activities in India.

(b) and (c) Government is alive to the situation and is taking all necessary steps to combat and frustrate the designs of ISI by sensitising and gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and co-ordinated action by concerned Central and State agencies. The Police and intelligence organisations are under instructions to neutralise Pak ISI modules and activities in all parts of the country whenever and wherever these come to notice. Government have taken several steps which include border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, supply of equipments for effective observations during day and night, increase in number of Nakas as well as sensitising and alerting the State Governments regarding movement of Pak ISI agents, anti-national elements and insurgents.

Murder of senior citizens in Delhi

70. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the murders of Senior Citizens have increased in the capital during the past few months as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 24th October, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the guidelines issued by the Delhi Police to follow the same by Senior Citizens;

(c) whether the Delhi Poice has failed to protect the citizens in the capital; and

(d) if so, what changes Government propose to take to make Delhi Police more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of senior citizens murdered in Delhi during the first ten months of the current year was 13 as against 19 during the corresponding period last year. The guidelines issued by Delhi Police for the benefit of senior citizens are given in the attached statement *(see below)*.

(c) and (d) Delhi Police takes all possible precautionary measures to protect the Senior citizens in the capital. In particular, the following measures have been taken:

(i) A Senior Citizens Security Scheme is in vogue under which senior citizens are identified, beat-wise and divisionwise, in every police station. Beat Staff of the police stations visits these senior citizens to offer them advice on security measures that should be taken.

(ii) During the beat and division patrolling, special vigil is maintained around the residences of senior citizens.

(iii) The antecedents of servants and others employed by elderly persons are verified.